



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



RON CHAPMAN, MD, MPH
Director & State Health Officer

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

June 19, 2014

Mr. Syed Murtuza
Director of Public Works
City of Burlingame
501 Primrose Road
Burlingame, CA 94010

Dear Mr. Murtuza:

**CITATION NO. 02-17-14C-007
TOTAL COLIFORM RULE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL VIOLATION
CITY OF BURLINGAME, WATER SYSTEM NO. 4110003**

Enclosed is a citation issued to the City of Burlingame (hereafter, Water System or City). The citation is issued as the Water System failed to comply with Section 64426.1(b)(1), Chapter 15, Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR). The total coliform maximum contaminant level was not met during May 2014.

The attached citation consists of three sections: Violation, Background, Directives, and Civil Penalties. The Violation and Background sections describe the events leading up to the issuance of the citation. The Directives section specifies what the Water System needs to do to return to compliance. The Civil Penalty section describes fees to be assessed for failure to comply with the citation. No civil penalty is levied with the current citation.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jose P. Lozano IV, P.E. at (510) 620-3459 or me at (510) 620-3453.

Sincerely,

Eric Lacy, P.E.
District Engineer
Santa Clara District
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

Mr. Syed Murtuza

June 19, 2014

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Enclosures: 1) Sample Notice (Attachment A)
2) Proof of Notification (Attachment B)

Certified Mail 7007 0220 0004 6904 0474

cc: San Mateo County Environmental Health Department (w/ encl.)

bcc: File Server; 4110003\Enforcement\May 2014 TCR MCL citation; Enforcement File;
Chron (all w/ encl.)
W4110003/140617.cit.ltr

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RE: Water System No. 4110003
City of Burlingame
501 Primrose Road
Burlingame, CA 94010

TO: Mr. Syed Murtuza
Director of Public Works
Public Works Department
City of Burlingame

CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE
Maximum Contaminant Level – Total Coliform Bacteria
May 2014

Section 116650, Chapter 4 of Part 12 of Division 104 of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC), authorizes the issuance of a citation for failure to comply with a requirement of Chapter 4 (California Safe Drinking Water Act), or any regulation, permit, standard, or order issued there under.

Violation

The Drinking Water Field Operations Branch of the Department of Public Health (hereinafter, Department) hereby issues a citation to the City of Burlingame (hereinafter, Water System or City) (Mailing address: 501 Primrose Road, Burlingame, CA) for failure to comply with Section 64426.1(b)(1), Chapter 15,

Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR). Specifically, the Water System failed to comply with the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total coliform bacteria during the month of May 2014.

Section 64426.1(b)(1) specifies that the water supplier collecting at least 40 samples per month is in violation of the total coliform MCL when more than five (5.0) percent of the samples collected during any month is total coliform-positive. During May 2014, the Water System collected 55 routine and repeat samples, of which five samples, or 9.1 percent, were total coliform-positive and *E. coli*-negative. This resulted in a violation of Section 64426.1(b)(1), CCR.

In accordance with Section 116650(e), CHSC, this violation is classified as a non-continuing violation.

Background

The City is a community water system, located on the San Francisco Peninsula in San Mateo County, which serves domestic water to an estimated population of 31,464 via 8,712 service connections (2013 Annual Report to the Department). The water system provides water service within the City limits and in the unincorporated Burlingame Hills, located at a higher elevation west of the City. The water system also supplies potable water, primarily for irrigation purposes, to the San Mateo County's Coyote Point Park, located southeast of the City, along San Francisco Bay. Water supplied to the City is purchased from SFPUC, a permitted water system. The City's water system consists of six purchased water turnouts, seven storage tanks, two hydropneumatic pressure tanks and six



booster pump stations to supply water to a distribution system, which comprises ten pressure zones. The tanks have a total capacity of approximately 2.96 million gallons (MG). Currently, the City collects a minimum of ten samples per week on a rotational-basis from four 10-site sets, as specified in the Department-approved bacteriological sampling plan.

The Water System collected a routine bacteriological sample, which was total coliform positive and *E.coli* negative, on the following days: May 14, May 21 and May 28, 2014.

The upstream repeat sample for the May 28, 2014 positive routine sample, collected on May 30, 2014, was total coliform positive and *E.coli* negative. In turn, the upstream repeat sample for the May 30, 2014 positive repeat sample, collected on June 1, 2014, was total coliform positive and *E.coli* negative. Follow-up repeat sampling performed on June 3, 2014 showed no further contamination.

With five of the 55 bacteriological water samples, or 9.1 percent, positive for total coliform, the Water System is in violation of the total coliform MCL during May 2014.

The Water System notified the Department on May 30, 2014 that it exceeded the total coliform MCL by having more than five percent of the total bacteriological samples collected in May 2014 positive for total coliform.



Directives

The Water System is hereby directed to take the following actions:

1. Immediately cease and desist from failing to comply with Section 64426.1 (b)(1), Chapter 15, Title 22, CCR.

2. Conduct public notification by July 16, 2014 for the total coliform MCL violation in conformance with Section 64463.4, Chapter 15, Title 22, CCR.

The notification shall be performed in accordance with the following methods:

a. Method 1 – Notice by mail or direct delivery shall be given to each customer receiving a bill including those that provide their drinking water to others (e.g. schools or school systems, apartment building owners, or large private employers), and other service connections to which water is delivered by the water system; and

b. Method 2 – Use of one or more of the following methods to reach persons not likely to be reached by a mailing or direct delivery (renters, university students, nursing home patients, prison inmates, etc.):

1. Publication in a local newspaper;
2. Posting in conspicuous public places served by the water system, or on the Internet; or
3. Delivery to community organization.

3. Submit a proposed notice to the Department for review and approval prior to distribution. Attachment A is a sample notice that may be used.



4. Complete and return the enclosed Proof of Notification form (Attachment B) within seven days of completion of the public notification. A copy of the notice used shall be attached to the Proof of Notification form.
5. Prepare a written Corrective Action Plan (CAP), based on your findings of the investigation of the bacteriological contamination problem. The plan shall include an evaluation of the causes that led to this incident, the follow-up actions taken to correct the problem, and preventive measures to be taken to prevent the reoccurrence of bacteriological contamination in the future. Submit the report to the Department by July 16, 2014.

All submittals to the Department are to be addressed to:

Mr. Eric Lacy, P.E.
District Engineer
Santa Clara District
Department of Public Health
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Building P, 2nd Floor
Richmond, CA 94804-6403

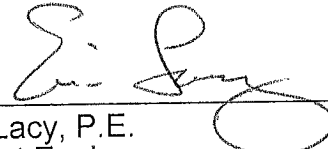


Civil Penalty

Sections 116650(d) and 116650(e), CHSC allow for the assessment of a civil penalty for failure to comply with the requirements of Chapter 4.

Failure to comply with any provision of this citation will result in the Department imposing a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000) per day as of the date of violation of any provision of this citation.

June 19, 2014
Date


Eric Lacy, P.E.
District Engineer
Santa Clara District
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

Attachments

CERTIFIED MAIL # 7007 0220 0004 6904 0474

cc: San Mateo County Environmental Health Department (w/ attachments)

bcc: Fileserver - 4110003\Enforcement\4110003.May 2014 TCR MCL vio Cit;
Enforcement file; Chron (all w/ attachments)
W4110003/140602.cit.doc



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The City of Burlingame Has Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We took 55 samples for coliform bacteria during May 2014. Five (5) of those samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 5.0 percent of our samples may do so.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*
- Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately. However, we are still finding coliforms in the drinking water.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

[Describe corrective action]. We will inform you when our sampling shows that no bacteria are present. We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated time frame].

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address].

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- SCHOOLS: Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Burlingame.

State Water System ID#: 4110003. Date distributed: _____.

PROOF OF NOTIFICATION

Citation Number 02-17-14C-007

City of Burlingame
System Number: 4110003

As required by Section 116450 of the California Health and Safety Code, I notified the users of the water supplied by the City of Burlingame of the violations of Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR) for the compliance period of May 2014. I complied with the directives of this citation as indicated below:

Required Action

Date
Completed

Conduct Public Notification – (Attach copy of the notice(s) used.)

Submit Corrective Action Plan

Signature of Water System Representative

Date

**THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT. A
COPY OF THE POSTED NOTICE MUST BE ATTACHED TO THIS FORM.**

Disclosure: Be advised that Section 116725 and 116730 of the California Health and Safety Code states that any person who knowingly makes any false statement on any report or document submitted for the purpose of compliance with the attached citation may be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each separate violation for each day that violation continues. In addition, the violators may be prosecuted in criminal court and upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000 for each day of violation, or be imprisoned in county jail not to exceed one year, or by both the fine and imprisonment.